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THE BUCCANEER



13

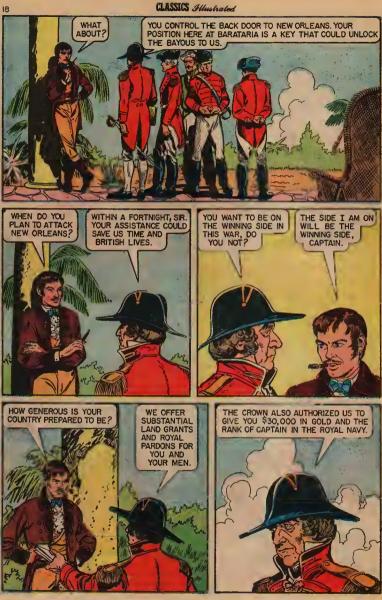
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22

















THE BUCCANEER





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BLOOD AND PLUNDER



HENRY MORGAN was born in 1635 on a farm in Wales. It is said that as a boy he was kidnapped at Bristol, England and sold as a slave at Barbados, an island in the British West Indies, It is believed that

from Barbados he eventually made his way to the island of Jamaica.

Numerous legends attached to the name of Henry Morgan have made him one of the most famous pirates who ever existed. But the charge of piracy was never proved against him. Some authorities now doubt whether he was a pirate at all.

In 1666, Morgan commanded a ship in the Edward Mansfeld expedition which seized the island of Providence in the Indian ocean. Shortly afterward, Morgan was chosen by a group of buccaneers as their admiral.

In 1668, Sir Thomas Modyford, the English governor of Jamaica, asked Morgan to capture some Spanish prisoners in order to discover the details of a threatened attack on Jamaica. Morgan took two Spanish islands, Porto Bello and Puerto Principe, and captured several prisoners. He also collected a large sum from the governor of Panama.

Modyford soon sent him on another expedition. Morgan ravaged the coast of Cuba and sacked Maracaibo, a city in Venezuela. At Maracaibo, he found three Spanish ships waiting to intercept him. He soon disposed of them and captured a considerable amount of treasure the ships were carrying.

On his return to Jamaica, Morgan was commissioned commander-in-chief of all the ships of war in Jamaica. His orders were to levy war against the Spaniards. He captured the island of Santa Catalina near California in December, 1670.

In 1671, he took Panama. It was a long, bloody battle and many men on both sides were killed. But Morgan was the victor. On February 24, 1671, Morgan and his men marched out of Panama with prisoners as well as 175 mules laden with gold, silver and jewels.

Meanwhile, on July 8, 1670, a peace treaty had been signed between Spain and England. Both Modyford and Morgan were ordered home under arrest to answer for their conduct. Morgan gained the king's favor. He was appointed lieutenant-governor of Jamaica and was knighted. But soon he was accused of committing crimes upon the sea and molesting other ships for his own gain. On October 12, 1683, he was suspended from his official duties in Jamaica. He died in August, 1688.

Another famous pirate who may or may not have been one, was William Kidd. Kidd was born in the early 1650's. He was the son / of a Scottish minister.

Kidd followed the sea from the time he was a boy. By the end of the 17th century, he was a shipmaster sailing from New York. At that time, British commerce suffered greatly at the hands of pirates. The king commissioned Kidd to destroy them. With 155 men and 30 guns, Kidd set sail for the chief pirate haunts which were in the Red sea region and Malabar in India.

But no pirates were found. A cholera plague destroyed some of the crew and the supplies started to give out. The crew mutinied. They seized the ship and turned to piracy. They captured several small vessels, fought a Portuguese man-of-war and finally captured a rich Armenian ship.

At this point, Kidd regained his command. He transferred the booty to a sloop and set

sail for America. He was arrested in Boston and sent to London for trial.

It was never really proved that Kidd was a pirate. But he was found guilty of piracy and hung.



SUNKEN TREASURE

MANY STORIES HAVE been told and retold of pirates and buried treasures; of the Jolly Roger, the black flag with the skull and crossbones; of captains and crews walking the plank while pirates sang their lusty songs. Each time a story like this is repeated it seems more exciting.

In ports all over the Eastern seas, from Singapore and Manila to Yokohama and 'Frisco, there are seafarers who are sure they know of caches of immense treasure ashore on lonely beaches and desolate islands, or sunken wrecks in the waters of the South Pacific or off the coast of China. Sometimes

these yarns have a foundation of fact. Occasionally treasure is found on an island or deep down in the sea. Most of the time a lost treasure is never found because it never existed. But there is always a chance the treasure-seeker may find something valuable, old and lost and be richer than he imagined in his wildest dreams.

Many years ago, in Hong

Kong, there was an old river pilot well known for his skill and business ability. The pilot had saved a little money and was considered to be quite thrifty by his friends. When he bought a sturdy new yacht they were puzzled. However, everyone was aware he bought if for some mysterious purpose which was constantly on his mind.

The old pilot became friendly with an American and invited him aboard the yacht. After dinner in his cabin one evening, the pilot cautiously looked around to see that there was no one in sight. Then he slowly unlocked a safe and took out a small chart. He turned to the American and whispered a romantic yarn. As the old pilot spoke, he brought the map closer to the American. It was yellow with age, dog-eared and water stained. On it was a crude drawing of a coral reef and shoal northeast of the Philippine Islands. The spelling was archaic and there were a few words in Spanish.

Behind the chart was a strange story of treasure and adventure. It seemed that a Spanish galleon bound from Lima to Manila had floundered on this reef in the late 17th century. She was carrying an enormous treasure of silver plate and pieces of eight.

An English captain had gotten the chart

in the Philippines, where he was engaged in carrying valuable woods to Singapore and Calcutta. A rough diary the captain kept showed that he had suffered great hardships and losses. He tried to enlist the aid of a Manila firm to search for the treasure but his efforts were in vain.. One evening he died on board his employer's ship. Before he died, the captain

handed the chart to his employer. But the new owner of the chart had some financial difficulties and sold the map to the old pilot for a trifle.

Soon after his talk with the American, the pilot set out to locate the wreck of the Spanish galleon. He was never heard of again. No one knows what happened to him. But it is quite possible that the old pilot may have found his treasure.

It is said by many seafaring men that there still are treasure wrecks scattered about the seas off the Chinese and South Pacific coasts. They are just waiting to be discovered by some brave and lucky adventurer.



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